

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
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UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0918

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), CS
SUBJECT: KISSINGER VISIT COVERAGE - ARRIVAL STATEMENT
IN SAN JOSE

STATE FOR S/PRS

USIA FOR IPS/PL; IBS/PL ILA IOP

NSC FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. NESSEN

FOLLOWING IS AS-DELIVERED TEXT OF SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL
STATEMENT IN SAN JOSE ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976:

MR. FOREIGN MINISTER:

AS YOU KNOW MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, TOMORROW WE START OUR
ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IN THE UNITED STATES AND IT IS A
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LUCKY THING FOR OUR CANDIDATES THAT YOUR ARE NOT
ELIGIBLE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU WILL HAVE SEEN WHAT YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER HAS PUT ME THROUGH AT OUR REPEATED MEETINGS. IT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE AT MEETINGS OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TO DELIVER A SPEECH TO WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF COSTA RICA REPLIED AND NO MATTER WHAT IT TRY TO DO HIS ELOQUENCE FAR OUT SHOWN MINE. THIS TIME HE HAS PUT ME INTO A MORE DIFFICULT POSITION. HE HAS SPOKEN FIRST.

MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, I FEEL INDEED, AS YOU STATED IN YOUR CONCLUSION, THAT I AM VISITING A FRIEND, VISITING A PERSONAL FRIEND, AND I AM VISITING A FELLOW DEMOCRACY, WHICH, WHATEVER THE DIFFERENCE IS IN SCALE, SHARES OUR VALUES, SUPPORTS COMMON PURPOSES AND HAS THE COURAGE TO STAND FOR ITS CONVICTIONS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, IN HEMISPHERIC FORUMS AND IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. NOT LAST, IT AS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, COSTA RICA HAS PROVED THAT A NATION OF STRONG CONVICTIONS AND FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN PRINCIPLES CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE WORLD REGARDLESS OF WHAT THOSE MIGHT SAY WHO CALCULATE ONLY BY TECHNICAL AND IMPERSONAL FACTORS.

IN YOUR ELOQUENT REMARKS YOU CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD, WHICH ARE TO PREVENT AGGRESSION, TO BUILD THE PEACE, AND TO CREATE A MORE PROGRESSIVE RELATIONSHIP AMONG STATES. DEMOCRACIES DO NOT HAVE TO BE AFRAID, NOR DO THEY HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR SEARCHING EVERY AVENUE TOWARDS PEACE, BUT NEITHER SHOULD THEY DELUDE THEMSELVES AND CLOSE THEIR EYES IN THE FACE OF AGGRESSION. AND ALSO, THE FREE COUNTRIES HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD. IN THE NATIONS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, SHARING A SIMILAR HISTORY, UNITED BY COMMON IDEALS, AND INSPIRED BY THOSE OF THEM THAT HAVE LED THE WAY TOWARDS RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY, HAVE A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE THIS.

MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, YOU AND I DISCUSSED THIS MEETING HERE
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IN COSTA RICA NEARLY A YEAR AGO AND YOU SUGGESTED THAT WE INVITE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN REPUBLICS TO JOIN US. IT WAS A FORTUNATE IDEA AND A HAPPY END TO MY VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA. I WANT YOU TO KNOW WHAT A GREAT PERSONAL JOY IT IS FOR ME TO SEE YOU, HOW MOVED I WAS BY YOUR ELOQUENT REMARKS, AND HOW MUCH I LOOK FORWARD TO SPENDING TIME WITH YOU AND TO GET TO KNOW YOUR PRESIDENT AND YOUR COUNTRY. THANK YOU.
TODMAN

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